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EXAMINER

QI, Z

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED:

06/27/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/196,185

Applicant(s)

HUR ET AL.

Examiner

Mike Qi

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May. 14, 2001.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-3, 6-13 and 18-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 5 and 14-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US ~~6~~,043,859 (Maeda) and in view of JP 8-254680.

Claim 4, Maeda discloses (col.4, lines 20-23) that the metal film (data wire or gate wire) made of molybdenum or molybdenum alloy.

Although Maeda does not expressly disclose using the supplementary layer, but Maeda discloses (col.6, lines 5-34) that to assure contact reliability, the nitride film having superior corrosion resistance is used, and the function of the nitride film is the superior corrosion resistance to attain a good protection for the data line and the gate line, and the data wire (102) is located under the nitride film (14, in Fig.6).

The supplementary layer located either on or under the entire wire layer means increasing the film thickness, so as to block infiltration of external moisture.

JP 8-254680 also discloses (col.3, line 42 - col.4, line 17 and Fig.2) that the metal lines

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(scanning lines and signal lines) made of molybdenum (Mo), and have the second supplementary layer, and such metal layers have a good protection to prevent the external influence.

The supplementary layer is located either on or under the entire wire, that is to increase the thickness of the metal wire, so as to improve the corrosion resistance, so that decreasing the wire disconnection.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to those skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use supplementary layer which is the molybdenum nitride or molybdenum alloy nitride film located on or under the entire wire as claimed in claim 4 for improving the corrosion resistance and decreasing the wire disconnection .

3. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda and JP 8-254680 as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of US 6,011,277 (Yamazaki).

Claim 5, Yamazaki discloses (col.14, lines 7-30) that a two-layer electrode (gate wire or data wire), lower chromium layer and upper metallic layer, and the metallic layer is a molybdenum layer, a wolfram (tungsten) layer, etc.

Maeda also discloses (col.6, lines 5-34) that tungsten, chromium, etc, are high melting point metal having superior corrosion resistance, so as to assure the contact reliability.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to those skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the supplementary layer comprises one selected from the group consisting of tungsten, chromium, zirconium and nickel as claimed in claim 5 for good contact reliability.

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4. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant admitted prior art, in view of US 9,043,859 (Maeda) and JP 8-254680.

Claim 14, Applicant admitted prior art (col.1, lines 11-22) indicated that in general, an LCD has:

- a substrate (insulating substrate, e.g., glass);
- a gate wire formed on the substrate;
- a gate insulating layer covering the gate wire;
- a data wire formed on the gate insulating layer;
- a passivation layer formed on the data wire;
- an ITO pixel electrode formed on the passivation layer and connected to the data wire (the drain electrode) through the contact hole.

Applicant admitted prior art does not expressly disclose the data wire is made of either molybdenum or molybdenum alloy, and a supplementary data wire is located either on or under the entire data wire and made of either molybdenum nitride or molybdenum alloy nitride.

However, Maeda discloses (col.4, lines 20-23 and col.6, lines 5-34) that the metal wire is made of molybdenum or molybdenum alloy, and to assure contact reliability, the nitride film having superior corrosion resistance is used, and the data wire (102) is located under the nitride film (14, in Fig. 6), and that supplementary nitride film is located on or under the entire data wire means increasing the film thickness, so as to block infiltration of external moisture.

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JP 8-254680 also discloses (col.3, line 42 - col.4, line 17 and Fig.2) that the metal lines (scanning lines and signal lines) made of molybdenum (Mo), and have the second supplementary layer, and such metal layers have a good protection to prevent the external influence.

The supplementary layer is located either on or under the metal wire, that is to increase the thickness of the metal wire, so as to improve the corrosion resistance and decreasing the wire disconnection.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to those skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the data wire such as the molybdenum or molybdenum alloy and supplementary data wire located on or under the entire data wire as claimed in claim 14 for improving the corrosion resistance and decreasing the wire disconnection.

5. Claims 15-17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant admitted prior art, Maeda and JP 8-254680 as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Yamazaki.

Claim 15 and 17, Yamazaki discloses (col.14, lines 7-30) that a two-layer electrode (gate wire or data wire), lower chromium layer and upper metallic layer, and the metallic layer is a molybdenum layer, a wolfram (tungsten) layer, etc.

Maeda also discloses (col.6, lines 5-34) that tungsten, chromium, etc, are high melting point metal having superior corrosion resistance, so as to assure the contact reliability.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to those skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the supplementary layer comprises one selected from the group consisting of

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tungsten, chromium, zirconium and nickel as claimed in claims 15 and 17 for achieving high corrosion resistance.

Claim 16, see the detailed explanation of Maeda and JP 8-254680 above.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed on May.14, 2001 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the references do not disclose or suggest the new features in the claim 4-5 and 14-17, and they are patentable, but Applicant does not describe any reason to show why the references do not disclose the features written in the claims and why they are patentable.

The reasons to show the features written in the claims would have been obvious are as the explanation above, and that the features written in the claims are clearly shown the obviousness over the prior art of record as disclosed by Maeda, JP 8-254680 and Yamazaki.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

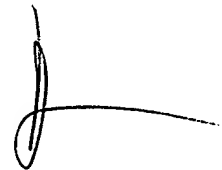
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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Qi whose telephone number is (703)308-6213 .

Mike Qi
June 20, 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Parker', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**KENNETH PARKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER**